



**COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
Meeting with County Executive Isiah Leggett**

**February 10, 2011**

**Patricia A. Gallalee, Chair  
Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair**

**FY 12 Key Issues of Concern**

1. Issue of Concern: Budget Cuts to Programs Serving People with Disabilities and the negative impact on our community.

Proposed solutions:

- We recommend that providers of services for people with developmental disabilities be fully funded; however, if cuts are imminent, limit cuts not to exceed 5% of current funding. In contrast to the County match to State funds being 10.16% in 2004, with increasing State dollars and an only 7.93% County match in FY11 the providers are receiving 20% or \$2M less than they would have at the 2004 County match level. The match helps to boost staff salaries TO \$8.97 an hour. It is a hard job, and it is difficult to attract and retain employees. Since you are looking for successful programs to continue, 93 percent of people receiving services are satisfied with their services and 95 percent were able to remain at the same level or higher of independence. Also, private providers in the County are bringing in \$97.8 Million in Revenue and serve 2,539 clients.
- Wherever possible, when County dollars are used, do not base eligibility on age or disability but instead base it on income and have it means tested, perhaps by something such as a Medicaid card. Age or disability does not necessarily mean low income.
- Strictly enforce existing County residency requirements for all programs that use county dollars such as the HHS security deposits for housing rental. County funded security deposits were intended to be used for those people with housing vouchers moving within the County. But, people are taking their vouchers and moving here from other states/counties and receiving county security deposits averaging \$1,800; others requesting much more than this average.
- We recommend there be no cuts to early intervention programs that support infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Eliminate duplication of state and county licensing such as the duplication in group home licensing.
- Maintain funding for public libraries. Libraries are a vital resource to people with disabilities, particularly in terms of employment readiness and employment opportunities.

2. Issue of Concern: People with disabilities living in shelters.

Proposed solutions:

- We ask the County to reexamine its housing policies in regards to program eligibility, criteria and placement priorities.
- There is not enough funding for those in crisis needing housing. There needs to be a collaborative effort between the emergency housing and Developmental Disabilities Administration. Also the County needs to identify staff that will work with people on the Waiting List/registry when they go into crisis